

**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009 AT 7:15 PM
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO CHAMBER
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

1. **ROLL CALL:** A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 7:15 pm, in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber. Present for the meeting were Councilors Stephen P. Corbett, Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, John J. Lawn, Jr., Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Mark S. Sideris and Council President Clyde L. Younger. Councilor Hecht was absent due to an evening session at the General Court related to revenue issues. The Chair sent out a special thanks to Councilor Hecht and his colleagues for their hard work with respect to this budget crisis.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: April 14th:** Councilor Devaney moved to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote.
4. **PUBLIC FORUM:** The Chair recognized the following residents:
 1. Veteran Joe Caouette - spoke in support of a large office for the Veteran's Agent in order to accommodate veterans services and visits. He noted that the current office is small and cramped and cannot accommodate more than one person at a time. He noted that many times, Veterans wives have to remain in the hallway while husbands meet with the Veteran Agent, due to the limited space.
 2. Veteran Jack Gately, VFW Commander - echoed the previous speaker's comments asking that Veterans be given the dignity they deserve with a larger office.
 3. Veteran Anthony Aiello, also spoke in support of a larger office for the Veterans Agent.

Councilor Falkoff moved to Suspend the Rules in order to bring forward agenda item 7A, seconded by Councilor Sideris and adopted by voice vote.

- a) Acceptance of Proclamations: Recognizing the 30th Anniversary of Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety (WCES); the Retirement of Captain Daniel Walsh and Arbor Day 2009.

Councilor Falkoff read a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of WCES and presented the proclamation to WCES members, Tony Palombo and Kathy Button, whom are part of a grass roots organization founded in 1979. Councilor Sideris moved to adopt the proclamation, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote.

The Chair read a proclamation honoring Fire Captain Dan Walsh upon his retirement. The Chair noted that the proclamation was presented earlier this evening at a gathering of family, friends and co-workers in honor of Captain Walsh. Councilor Sideris moved to adopt the proclamation, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote.

The Chair read a proclamation recognizing May 1st as Arbor Day. Councilor Sideris moved to adopt the proclamation, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by voice vote.

5. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE:

- a) Public hearing and vote on a proposed Ordinance regarding compensation for the Town Auditor. Councilor Corbett moved to place the matter on the Table, seconded by Councilor Lawn. The Chair opened the hearing up to the public. There being no comments, the hearing was closed.

The Chair recognized Councilor Corbett, Personnel and Town Organization subcommittee chair, who reviewed a previously presented report on the Auditor's performance evaluation which was positive and compensation dollar amounts. He noted that this was a fairness issue and fiscally prudent not to put this matter off.

Councilor Kounelis stated that while she understands that it is a fairness issue, she will vote against the compensation to be consistent with her votes against the Manager's compensation and the Clerk's compensation.

Councilor Devaney stated that she will be Recusing herself from the vote and discussion.

Councilor Falkoff stated that she appreciates the work that the Town Auditor does and will be voting in favor of the Ordinance to reward him for that hard work.

Upon a roll call vote, the Ordinance was adopted by a roll call vote of 6 for, 1 against and 0 present, with Councilor Kounelis voting against and Councilor Devaney Recusing herself.

6. COMMITTEE REPORT:

- a) Committee on Rules and Ordinances report on clarification of the role of the Council President vis-a-vis his attendance at departmental meetings. The Chair noted that he attended the meeting last night, which was continued. Councilor Devaney noted that she prepared the minutes for the Rules and Ordinances committee. She moved their acceptance, seconded by Councilor Sideris.

Councilor Kounelis, Chair of the Rules and Ordinances subcommittee, stated that no consensus was reached last night and the meeting will be rescheduled to another date. Councilor Kounelis read an excerpt from the Open Meeting Law which states that minutes must be prepared at some point. She noted that this meeting was continued.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that under Rule 11.5 states that the report must first be accepted by the Committee and there is no strict timeline for the report. He noted that in fairness to the work Councilor Devaney did however, under Rule 7.7 (E), any person can submit an attachment and therefore he will move to accept the minutes as an attachment, seconded by Councilor Falkoff.

The Chair stated that the meeting has been continued and the Committee can accept them as part of the overall minutes at a later date. The Chair asked that the matter be Tabled until the subcommittee meets again.

The Chair called for a vote on the previous motion to accept the minutes. Upon a roll call vote, the motion failed 1 for and 7 against, with Councilor Devaney voting in favor.

Councilor Piccirilli withdrew his previous motion. Councilor Falkoff withdrew her previous second.

Councilor Lawn moved to Table the minutes until the Committee has met again, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote.

7. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- a) Acceptance of Proclamations: Recognizing the 30th Anniversary of Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety (WCES); the Retirement of Captain Daniel Walsh and Arbor Day 2009. Previously voted.

- b) First Reading on a proposed Ordinance to Temporarily Modify Hours of Operation of the Administration Building. The Chair recognized the Town Manager who provided a brief overview of the proposed Ordinance. It was noted that the matter will be advertised for a public hearing and vote for May 12th.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Chair read a letter from Secretary Galvin's office of Election Division which stated that no violation of election laws or fraud was alleged regarding the November 2007 election and recount. Furthermore, the letter states that additional training took place among Town election officials and no complaints were received.

The Chair stated that a series of letters were sent to State election officials regarding the State's budget crisis. The Chair stated that he would like to send an additional letter to Ms. Michelle Tassinari thanking her for assistance with the previously read election matter. Councilor Sideris moved the request, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

- a) Submission of the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. The Manager provided a reading of the Budget Message (attached).

10. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Councilor Falkoff requested an updated list of streets and sidewalks and an update on the Coolidge Square study.

Councilor Kounelis asked Mr. Mee to peruse a flyer regarding Automated Trash Collection to see if it could be a cost savings to the community.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Sideris reminded residents that the application deadline for Charitable grants is this Thursday at 5pm.

Councilor Devaney announced that she has identified a larger room for the Veterans Agent and will provide a report tomorrow.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

Russ Arico, Fayette Street – With respect to water and sewers fees, he noted that there is nothing wrong with charging for fees. He noted however, that granite curbing should be put on hold as the spending is unnecessary – as it is a want and not a need.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Sideris moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm, seconded by Councilor Devaney and adopted by voice vote.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted as written, on May 12, 2009 by voice vote.

Clyde L. Younger, Council President